

Iowa State Bystander.

BY BYSTANDER PUB. CO.

DES MOINES, IOWA.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18.

RACE ECHOES.

It is estimated that colored people own and pay taxes on 225,000 acres of land in the delta counties of Mississippi.

At Savannah, Ga., a number of white boys are employed at printing and carpentering, and other work under Negro employment.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 27.—The first international council of Grand Master Masons, colored, met at noon today in the Masonic Temple, with colored Masons dignitaries present from all parts of the world.

Pine Bluff, Ark., Dec. 26.—The Boyd plantation, across the Arkansas river, opposite Pine Bluff, has been sold by the Equitable Security Co. of New York to E. E. Fluker, a Negro merchant of this city. The consideration was \$15,000, and the place contains 2,100 acres.

In Oklahoma there are 60,000 colored people, men, women and children, or 13,000 colored voters; from careful compilation of statistics there are 7,000 colored men owning farms, which will strike an average at \$300 each; which is a very low average, as there are numbers of colored farmers who can cash their farms today for \$3,000. But placing all at \$300 each, that would make a great total of at least \$5,600,000 owned in farm property by colored men of Oklahoma.

ST. LOUIS NEGROES IN BUSINESS.

From the St. Louis Palladium.

There are about one hundred business establishments among the colored people in St. Louis, among which are eight well-doing groceries, two excellent drug stores, three extensive dealers in merchandise, besides a goodly number of paving and mechanical business conducted in the most creditable manner. One corporation with a capital stock of \$50,000. We have sixteen dentists and physicians who have a flourishing practice and who are rapidly acquiring a competency. These Negro doctors are learned and skilled, so recognized by both races, among which their practice extends. In legal profession twelve lawyers find a lucrative field for their talents. One is a prosecuting attorney for the city, and others have represented celebrated cases before the State and Federal Supreme courts.

There are thirty-seven carriers and clerks in the federal departments, many of whom by long service and study have acquired an efficiency which none excel.

In the various branches of the city government are thirteen colored clerks and deputies, whose salaries range from \$75 to \$150 per month. Besides these are a goodly number of colored men who hold positions to which comfortable salaries are attached.

We have thirty-three well organized religious congregations, with churches and meeting halls, among which are four church edifices that would be a credit to any people. Our pulpits are being filled with scholars as well as pious men, who eloquently analyze and expound the most difficult questions in the theology of their faith. There are over a hundred colored teachers in our public schools, all of whom have been tested in the ordeal of one of the most complete school systems of America—the St. Louis school systems. Some of our Negro educators are men of original powers, and their presence in our schools add to the excellence of the system. In the charitable direction our churches and

societies are doing good work, and the orphan asylum and the two colored hospitals act as handmaids of benevolent movements among the colored people of the city.

The Epworth League, Christian Endeavor and Y. M. C. A. are prominent among our literary and religious organizations, the latter of which is buying a magnificent building for headquarters. We have scores of secret and benevolent societies, which care for the sick and bury the dead, and maintain a fraternal compact that will last through centuries.

Recently, on account of the numerous outrages in the South, thousands of Negro immigrants have come and made their homes in St. Louis. Many of them are thrifty and aggressive and some of them have established the most flourishing business enterprises among the colored people of this city. Counting the floating population, which is always considerable in a commercial centre like St. Louis, our number easily reach the important figure of 50,000 living souls.

HOTEL CLERK'S

Plan of Lodging a Snorer So as to Protect Other Guests.

Among a group of newly arrived travelers who clustered about the desk of one of the large city hotels the other evening was a big, jovial looking man with a Roman nose and a collection of double chins leading down to his collar like a flight of stairs. He nodded to the head porter as he came in, and before he registered he shook hands cordially with the clerk. It was evident that he had been there before. "Well, my boy," he said, after he had inscribed and blotted his autograph, "what can you do for me tonight?" The clerk consulted the room chart. "I can give you 'steven eleven,'" he replied. "It's a very nice room at the end of the corridor; plenty of light and air and lots of privacy. Front! show the gentlemen to 'steven eleven!'" "But hold on," protested the large man. "I don't want that room; it's too far off. Why can't you give me my old room on the third floor?" "I'm very sorry, Colonel," replied the clerk, "but that one on the corridor is the last one on the chart. Honestly, I'm lucky to have anything for you, with all this Mardi Gras rush." "Well, if it's Hobson's choice, I guess I'll have to take it," said the big guest, and moved away toward the elevator. Later on the clerk made a confession in strict confidence to a curious bystander. "Yes, I admit I have a few other rooms," he said, "but they are all in the middle of halls, and this gentleman is the champion snorer of West Virginia. Last time he was here I couldn't keep anybody on either side of him, and the result was that we had two rooms tied up from which we were deriving no revenue. We can't afford such a waste of space so near Mardi Gras, so I put him in one of our special snorer's apartments, of which we have four, all isolated at the ends of corridors. The wall spaces are filled with non-conducting packing, the transoms are nailed shut, and he can snore there until the cows come home without disturbing anybody. Oh! yes, we keep a record of snorers, also of folk who talk in their sleep and holler murder in nightmares. Have to do it to protect our other patrons."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

HISTORICAL PALACE FOR SALE.

Many of England's Kings and Queens Resided There.

The crown lease of Eltham court and palace, which forms one of the most interesting links with the past which have ever passed into the estate market, is advertised for sale, says the London Chronicle. Its history dates from the time of Edward the Confessor (1042-66). At that time the manor belonged to the crown. It was granted by William the Conqueror to his brother Odo, earl of Kent, but reverted to the crown. While the date of the erection of the palace is uncertain, it is known that it was a royal residence from 1270 to 1628. "John o' Eltham," Edward II., Edward III., Richard II., Henry IV., Henry V., Edward IV., Richard III., Henry VII., Henry VIII., Mary, Elizabeth and James I., all resided at the palace. It was there, also, that Edward III. held his parliament, Richard III. entertained the captive king of France, Henry IV. was espoused to Joan of Navarre and Edward IV.'s daughter Bridget was born. After passing through other royal hands, the palace came into the possession of Sir John Shaw. It is from one of the three parks known as the middle park that the "Middle Park Plate" takes its name. The present house retains the old moat and part of the original palace is still standing.

AS TRUE AS GOSPEL.

Speak well of your friend, of your enemy, say nothing.

He who says what he likes will hear what he does not like.

A man's manners are the mirror in which he shows his portrait.

If cheerfulness knocks for admission, we should open our hearts wide to receive it, for it never comes in uninvited.

MARRIED WITHOUT COAT.

But He Had to Wait Fifty Years for His Bride's Consent.

The whirligig of time that eventually makes all things even made it possible for both Thomas Hartigan and Susan Thompson to keep their vows that prevented them for half a century from marrying, and yet permitted them, only a week ago, to wed after all. Fifty years ago Thomas Hartigan, in a sort of boyish prank, declared that he should marry in his shirt sleeves. His bride, Susan Thompson, went to the church on her wedding day, never thinking that her lover was serious in what he said, but when he appeared at the altar and declared that he should never marry except in his shirt sleeves, then she said she would never marry him if he did not put on a coat. So there was no wedding. All this happened in the Cascade valley, near Renova, Pa. After winning wealth in California Hartigan returned to the Cascade valley three years ago. Susan Thompson was still there. They talked of marrying, but each was still firm in the declaration in regard to the shirt sleeves they had made 50 years ago. Last summer the shirtwaist man appeared. Thomas Hartigan decided that if he wore a shirtwaist at his wedding he would be fulfilling his vow of marrying in his shirt sleeves to the letter. Miss Thompson decided that fashion had given the shirt waist the dignity of a coat, and that she could marry a man wearing a shirt waist without breaking her vow never to marry Tom Hartigan unless he wore a coat. And so they were married, and Tom Hartigan wore the most elaborate shirt waist that the storekeeper in Renova could get in Philadelphia. So the male shirtwaist has not lived in vain.

WOMEN MAY WOO.

So One of Them Thinks, and Expresses Herself.

Of course women have to dispose of themselves in marriage, but should the woman ever propose? asks a masculine writer. Sometimes, even when it is not leap year, they should. There is first of all the case of queens; they must do so, and very prettily did Queen Victoria fulfill the task, says the Washington Post.

But the sex is so good-natured in helping lame dogs over a stile! An Irish girl did it in this way. She thought that her boy was slow in coming to the point, so she said, "If I were you, Jack, and you were me, we'd be married long ago." Another shy man said to the lady of his choice: "I wish we were on such terms of intimacy that you wouldn't mind calling me by my first name." "Oh," she answered, "your second is good enough for me." Shakespeare's heroines are remarkably ready to take the initiative in this most serious business. Helena demands the hand of Bertram as the price of her wonder-working prescription. Desdemona hints broadly that she is to be had for the asking. Miranda tells her patient logman that she is his wife if he will marry her. Olivia says to her lover's masquerading messenger:

"Would you undertake another suit, I rather hear you to solicit Than music from the spheres!"

Then, finding Sebastian himself more pliable than his fair double, she fetches a priest to make sure of him while he is in the humor. Juliet, caught thinking aloud, declares her willingness to lay her fortunes at Romeo's feet if he will but say when and where the holy man shall make them one.

Refining Petroleum.

The refining of petroleum is an interesting process. The petroleum is put into a tank, under which is a slow fire, burning the gas from the oil itself. As the latter warms up, the vapors pass through a long pipe, and are cooled in the process, condensing it into liquid again. The first thing that "comes over" is a gas which is used as a fuel in the works. Next, the varying grades of naphtha; next (the product becoming heavier and heavier all the time), the gasoline grades, then the low-test kerosenes, then the high-grade kerosenes. Then comes a long list of heavier oils, ending with the heaviest and thickest of lubricants. There is left in the tank paraffine and a black, dense, sticky substance which is little more than asphalt. From these bi-products, after the refining of oil, are made more than 150 substances of value, including such familiar things as dyes, soap, vaseline, ointment, and chewing gum.

Molten Wood in France.

Molten wood is a new invention by Mr. de Gail, inspector of forests at Lemur, France. By means of dry distillation and high pressure the escape of developing gases is prevented, thereby reducing the wood to a molten condition. After cooling off the mass assumes the character of coal, yet without showing a trace of the organic structure of that mineral. This new body is hard, but can be shaped and polished at will; is impervious to water and acids, and is a perfect electrical non-conductor. Great results are expected from this new discovery.—United States Consular Reports.

Passion Play's Financial Results.

Oberammergau has been casting up the accounts of this year's Passion Play. There were forty-eight performances and 200,000 visitors, who paid \$300,000 for admission. The profits of the village from lodgers, the sale of trinkets, etc., were between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000. Munich and Bavarian railroads have also profited, the latter showing a surplus of \$2,500,000.

Five Women Patrons of Bucket Shop.

Six women and four men, accused of patronizing a bucket-shop in the Rialto building, were fined the costs by Justice Martin yesterday. One of the women, who gave her name as Maria Jones, attempted to leave the courtroom without paying the costs. Detective Wooldridge saw her and he pursued and overtook her at the door. He took her to a cell, where she was kept until she paid the necessary amount.—Chicago Tribune.

Diamond Polishing Tedious Work.

Diamond polishing is a lengthy process. The workmen sit at long tables with their backs to the light and have in front of them small iron wheels revolving with terrible rapidity—1,500 times a minute. The round diamonds are dipped in oil and diamond dust, soldered to a handle and placed against the wheel. The many sides of the stone are given here and it is a tedious process.

Barratry Case Is Not Pushed.

When the charge of barratry, which means the encouragement of lawsuits, made by W. Van Kirk against Attorney Robert E. Cantwell came up for hearing before Justice Severson yesterday a nolo contendere was entered by the complainant. Cantwell, it is said, advertised to conduct bankruptcy cases free of charge for any city employees who were in debt to money lenders.—Chicago Journal.

Bound to Join the Army.

A recruit for the British army was taken to be sworn in recently by the magistrate. Everything was going swimmingly till the magistrate asked the man, "Have you ever been in prison?" At this the man looked startled, but quickly recovering himself, he blurted out, "No, sir, I have never been in jail, but I don't mind doing a few days if you think it necessary."

A Kaffir Newspaper.

It is not generally known that the Kaffirs of south Africa, popularly supposed to be a tribe of wild savages, publish a newspaper. It is called the Imvo and has for its editors Tengo Jabaire and Mr. Makubalo. Contrary to the reports of the leanings of the Kaffirs in the present war, the Imvo strongly sympathizes with the Boers.

Clothes Brushes in Cars.

The South Chicago Street Railway Company has introduced into its cars whiskbrooms and clothes brushes. These useful articles are placed in a small cabinet in the forward end of the car, within easy reach of the passengers, with an announcement beneath notifying travelers that the brushes are at their disposal.

Nine Barrels of Stamps.

A dealer has purchased nine barrels full of United States stamps, but this mammoth transaction has not created a ripple on the market. There are no Brattleboro, St. Louis, New Haven—nothing but plain every-day stamps, and the dealer intends to sell them by the thousand. They will come in handy to decorate furniture.

Treaty Elm.

A monument now marks the place where stood the famous tree in the environs of Philadelphia, Pa., under which William Penn negotiated the treaty with the Indian chiefs, of which it has been said that it is "the only one ever made without an oath, and the only one never broken."

Tolstoi's Daughters Assist.

Count Leo Tolstoi is assisted in his literary work by his two daughters, Tatjana and Marsha, who have more than ordinary talent. "However great I may be or not be as a novelist," said Tolstoi recently, "I am much greater as a correspondent, because my two daughters write all my letters."

Growth of Book Publishing.

During the past few years the book publishing industry has increased, like all others. In 1897 and 1898 the industry was at a low ebb, less than 3,000 new books being put on the market in either year; but in 1899 no fewer than 6,000 books were published in this country.

Germania Would Save Birds.

The feeling in Germany against the wholesale slaughter of birds in Italy is getting very bitter. This year very few swallows have come from the south, and it is feared that in a few years they will be practically exterminated.

Gotham Might Not Approve.

It is said that Commissioner Peck hesitated to offer champagne to his guests at the opening of the United States pavilion at the exposition, "as he was afraid that it would not be approved in New York."

A Billion Dollars Employed.

A good English authority estimates that \$1,000,000,000 foreign capital is now operating in Russia in manufacturing, industrial, steamship and other enterprises.

Prince of Wales Studying Law.

The prince of Wales still pursues his law studies most systematically. He was chosen a bencher of the middle temple a number of years ago.

Great Britain's Insane.

For the last ten years there has been an increase of 2,000 annually in the number of Great Britain's insane.



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BEAT OUT OF AN INCREASE OF HIS PENSION.

A Mexican war veteran and prominent editor writes: "Seeing the advertisement of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, I am reminded that as a soldier in Mexico in '46 and '48 I contracted Mexican diarrhoea and this remedy has kept me from getting an increase in my pension for on every renewal a dose of it restores me." It is unequalled as a quick cure for diarrhoea and is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by all Druggists.

A DEPARTED SPIRIT

Attends His Own Funeral and Thanks His Friends.

Of peculiar interest were the funeral services of Gerry Valentine. Mr. Valentine was one of the early settlers of this place, and was more than 80 years old. He was an ardent Spiritualist, and when he died he left directions for his funeral, which were intended to be a practical demonstration of his belief. The services were held in the Universalist church. The preacher was Samuel Wheeler, a noted Spiritualist of Philadelphia, and he chose "The Rainbow Bridge" as his subject. Then the meeting was given over into the hands of Mrs. Minnie Brown, a clairvoyant from Philadelphia. Immediately after Mrs. Brown had taken her position several raps were heard. "Our brother has a message for Cyrus F. Osgood," said the medium. "He wishes to thank Mr. Osgood and the others for their care in carrying out his wishes in regard to his funeral ceremonies." Mrs. Brown then gave the information that Mr. Valentine was not alone, but that J. O. Ransome, Mr. Parkhurst and Mr. Wyatt, former friends of the dead man, had accompanied him on his "little journey in the world." Several other shades of departed Spiritualists had come with them. They reported that they had made things homelike for Mr. Valentine, and gave messages to the friends of the latter which were intended to cheer and comfort them. The announcements were hailed by the many Spiritualists in the audience with pleasure, and after a few more congratulatory raps Mr. Valentine's spirit and its companions rapped "Adieu."—Hammonton (N. J.) Special New York Herald.

Caused by a Cow's Tail.

Lock Haven (Penn.) Spe. Philadelphia Inquirer: Mrs. Joseph Ross, of Pleasant Gap, met with a most peculiar accident. When she went into the barnyard to do the milking a cow swished its tail, which caught in the handle of the milk bucket. The hook on the bucket handle caught in the palm of Mrs. Ross' hand. Then the heifer started to run, dragging Mrs. Ross about the barnyard until she was seriously if not fatally injured, the hook at last releasing her after tearing completely through the hand from the fleshy base of the thumb diagonally across to the little finger.

Widows Do Not Remarry.

In China it is the rule of good society that widows do not remarry. They are not forbidden to do so, but they are thought more highly of if they don't. In order to encourage them the government, when they have passed the age of 50, and have not married, confers on them a tablet containing a eulogy of their virtues.

Raising the Hat an Ancient Salutation.

When a knight of old entered a company of ladies he removed his helmet to indicate that he considered himself among friends, and that there was no need to protect himself. This practice has survived in the custom of raising the hat when saluting a lady. —June Ladies' Home Journal.

Prince Rupert's Dislikes.

Prince Rupert, the heir to the throne of Bavaria, dislikes the attentions of the White Rose league of England, which, because it recognizes the claims of the Stuarts to the British throne, persists, much to his disgust, in styling him "the rightful prince of Wales."

Britain's New Halfpenny Stamp.

Great Britain has issued a new halfpenny stamp, green in color; a new 1s bi-colored postage and revenue stamp will also be issued about midsummer, when the stock of the present single colored green stamp will be exhausted.

Mississippi gets \$25,000 from what is known as the Morrill fund. Alcorn A. & M. college gets \$13,375 and the A. and M. college gets \$11,525.

The True Christian Spirit.

A citizen of this republic is not permitted to be master of his own speech when language is to be conveyed by common carriers, such as the post-office department and the telegraph. Yesterday a man who wanted to be vigorous started a telegram as follows: "To hell with likes and dislikes." It was in reply to an inquiry if he liked something. A ring brought a messenger, by whom the dispatch was taken to the sending office. Presently the boy returned, saying: "Mister, they can't send it like this; you'll have to change it." The astonished citizen cried: "Can't send it? Change what?" The boy blushing placed his finger on "hell." Pink rushed to the office. "Look here, operator, what's the matter with this telegram? Why can't you send it? Are you a Sunday school superintendent?" "No, sir; I'm all right. I sent it as far down as 'hell,' when the chap at the other end of the wire challenged me. He refuses to receive it." And, to be accommodating the man made it read, "Hang likes and dislikes," which went through without burning the conscience of the receiver.—New York Press.